TAHITI P13

THE END OF A COALITION

INSIDE

DEATH OF THE DEMO TUMUS ?

MR VERA'S

ORIGINAL HOMEMADE

ATIU JOURNAL

No 37 Independent

DECEMBER 20 1988

Atiu-Cook Islands $1.50

ECONOMY DEAD SALES IN THE SUNSET

"NGAMARU [illegible]"..greatest OIs. development since roast corned beef OR traditional OIs. 'EFF-UP' ? (In this issue).

JUGULAR GEOFF !

Well, it had to come....the end of the phony peace and goodwill! It happened on Atiu last week when the CIP's, led by prospective PM Geoffrey Henry really stuck it to Atiuan Minister Norman George.

In went the boot. Crack went a bone or two. No blood flowed...yet. But no one was left in any doubt any more...

ELECTION 89 was on. And it was for real!

PARTY TIME IN ATIU

INSIDE

THE ARCHITECT

THE MUCK BEGINS TO FLY

Abusive cartoons, slanderous accusations, insults.. everything bar necrophilia and baby-eating was hurled in the direction of Norman George last week! (SEE INSIDE PAGE)

POLITICS

MR VERA'S ATIU JOURNAL

Editorial

Comment

Fairly fearless commentary on what's going on on both sides of the lagoon. Any ressemblance to actual persons living or dead is totally intentional.

Independent

P. O. ATIU

Cook Islands

a national publication

Published and Printed by TERAI MANEA (sole proprietor Terupe Patiare Kelly).

This publication is independent of all political parties and factions in the Cook Islands.

EDITOR: "vera"

Happy the Brain!

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SERVICE

A QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP

In the view of the JOURNAL, Geoffrey Henry could have had the forthcoming election sewn up this time last year.

What was required was the concerted hard work at policy, public awareness and at fund-raising.

Now, in spite of the usual "we're gonna win by miles" assertions by followers who've contributed next to nothing to national political debate in the last five years, the CIP's do NOT look like securing the comfortable majority they ought to be expecting in view of government's lamentable national management performances.

He merited another shot..if he could persuade the country that his leadership was the one needed to take us through the rest of the century.

Many citizens were genuinely hoping for a renewed mandate for Mr. Henry. We had never seen what he could do at the head of the country he has served with distinction and to which he has devoted a talented career.

What we are witnessing (foreign funding; a strident campaign; cheap empty ads; and a reported sudden panic trip to NZ.. ..plus the months of constituency dithering and bickering over candidates) does not inspire confidence.

Most concern of all is felt towards the presence of Mr. Richard Barton, an Australian financier, at the heart of the CIP campaign.

The USA wisely and specifically bar nationals from funding foreign politics.

We all remember the fate of Mr. Finbar Kenny.

The public, the tourist, and possibly the NZ Rep., may be tempted to feel concerned that a major CIs. party (possibly the next government) is being payrolled by a foreign national.

It puts the Cook Islands into the banana republic category and puts Mr. Henry on a level with the Coalitionists he has condemned roundly and properly in the past for "selling out" the country.

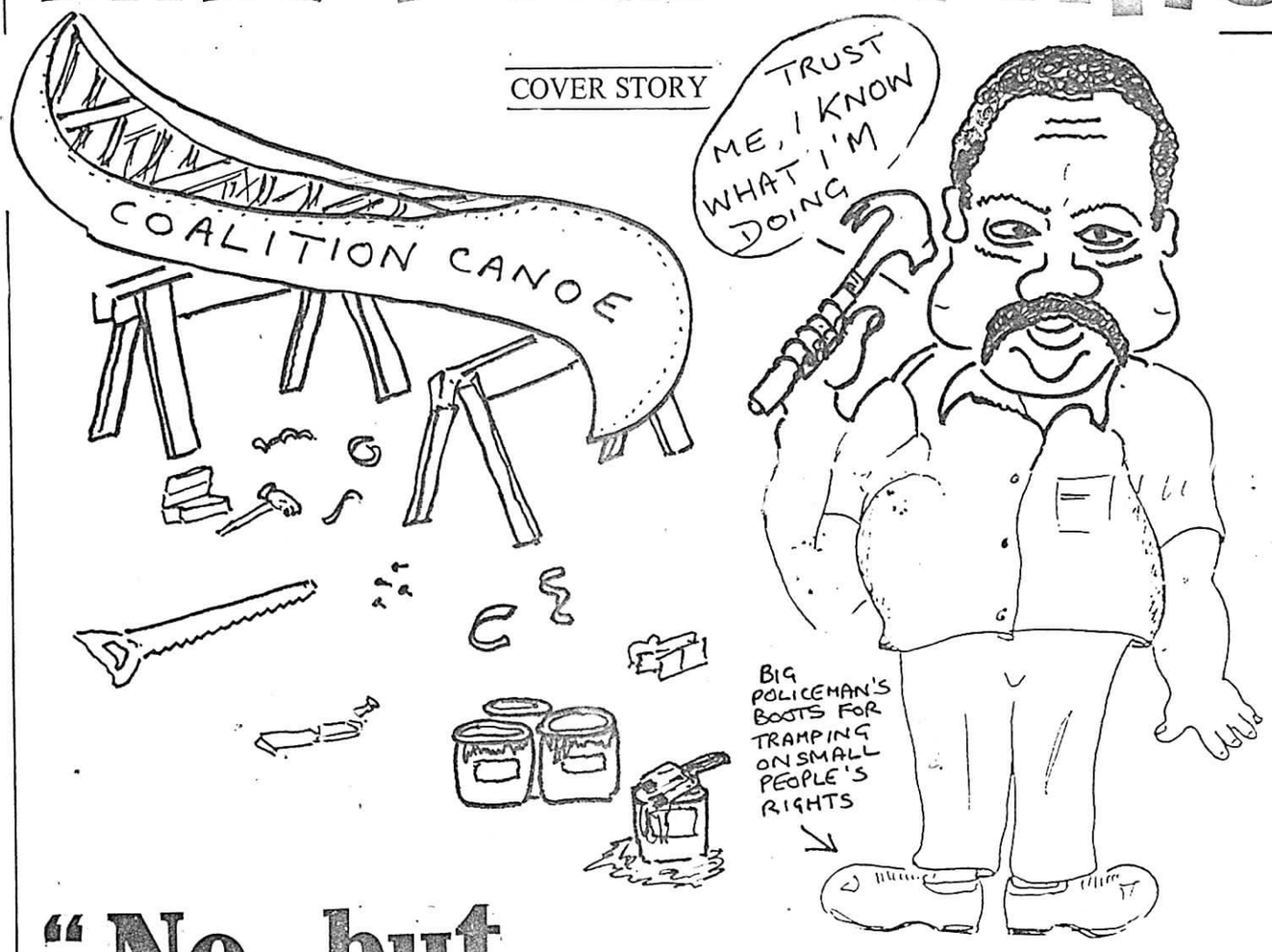
The actions of Mr. Henry and those of Mr. George and the ill-prepared rush into electioneering by Mr. Jonassen and Mr. Sadaraka almost make Dr. Robati appear statesmen-like...that is, if anyone could find him!

ADVERTISING COSTS, RIGHT?

ALL POLITICAL ADVERTISING IN THE JOURNAL IS FREE TO ALL CANDIDATES AND REGISTERED PARTIES AS A COMMUNITY SERVICE. WITH OUR RESPECTS TO ALL CANDIDATES. 'IA MANUIA KOTOU. FREE INFORMATION IS A PEOPLE'S RIGHT IN THE VIEW OF THIS PUBLICATION.

PARTY TIME IN ATIU

COVER STORY



"No, but seriously"

ALL THE NEGATIVES

The cartoon reproduced here would not normally find its way into the pages of the JOURNAL.

It is unsigned. Its authorship is unacknowledged. Its content is actionable in as much as it appears to state that Minister Norman George used public money to build his "house on the hill" in Titikaveka.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

The above cartoon/lampoon was handed in to the JOURNAL shortly after the official "launching" of the CIP campaign on Atiu. The cartoon is reproduced accurately. Its authorship was claimed by the JOURNAL contact who obtained it to be anonymous.

-ELECTION DIRT-

SERIOUSLY

COMMENTARY

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

CIP leader Geoffrey Henry's visit to Atiu was an important event.

His public meeting was well-attended.

Following his departure, hard-core CIP's were ecstatic.

"Geoff told them," so the JOURNAL reports went, "He really went for Norman. And the ADC."

The euphoria escalated.

"They will be court cases in Atiu after the CIP's get in..."

And...

"We're going to be the government, so if you don't vote for us, watch out!"

Meanwhile, according to pro-government Atiuans, the net result of it all was being witnessed with a sharp return to the Demo fold of those pro-Tura, anti-Norman waverers who were considering taking the enormous step of voting CIP.

"Geoff couldn't have done Tura a bigger disservice," claimed Coalition MP Mariri Paratainga.

Maybe...

Tura Koronui supporters reported no net loss.

The JOURNAL judgment is that the overall effect was indeed to harden Demos in Areora but that Norman has still work to do...hence a decision by safe-seat *Te Enui/Mapumai* Parataínga committee men to help out Norman in the Areora seat.

Mr, Henry's visit, whatever his overall intention, did indicate a new Atiu direction the election campaign has started to take.

Of all the elections in the last ten years in the Cook Islands, the current one has the clear potential of becoming the nastiest and the dirtiest.

Naturally, the villains will appear to be the CIP's.

As we take a look at the dirty side of the present campaign, we are inclined to the view that both main camps have only themselves to blame if the dung starts getting flung.

The JOURNAL first came into print some eighteen months ago.

Looking back on the early issues now, it is obvious that the so-called "issues" of the forthcoming election were crystal clear a long long time ago.

Education, Health, Agriculture, Over-Expenditure, Power, Mis-Management....they had all been thoroughly exposed and put to a full range of political leaders.

18 months before an election, the answers, policies and solutions on offer seemed fair and informed. They were a trifle vague but that was only to be expected.

Plenty of time remained for the "hardening up" of stances and positions.

Also, legitimate strategy dictated a certain vagueness.

Geoffrey Henry told us, "We don't want to go into too much detail at this time as the other side will steal all our ideas."

Today, we are about four weeks off the election and might feel entitled to ask "WHAT IDEAS?!!"

Vincent Ingram said, "we (the Demo Tumus) will be putting out a full slate of candidates with a detailed policy for government".

So...today... "WHAT POLICY"?

Norman George stated to us on many occasions, "Our plans for a second term will involve etc etc...."

So...

"WHAT PLANS."

The short answer is that none of the major factions have bothered to conduct a five-year review of the Cook Islands and a five-year projection of policy.

Manifestos are still in the process of being cobbled together.

The last few sessions of Parliament gave clear indications of what the political leaders considered worthy of the people by way of informed analysis of public issues.

For example, the following represents a fair paraphrase of Nikao debate one year ago:

OPPOSITION:

Why is the power supply so appalling?

MINISTER:

Just as God

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

made Man and permitted him to get tired and need a rest, so electric machines get tired and need a rest.

AND....

OPPOSITION:

What's this about our students being forced to take NZSC exams they are sure to fail?

MINISTER:

I shall be appointing a curriculum review committee to look into it.

(never appointed)

OPPOSITION:

Thank you.

The JOURNAL has yet to find a citizen willing to stand up an defend a government record in the social services which is widely felt to be "appalling".

As a Rarotonga businessman told us, "It's unbelievable. Geoffrey Henry merely had to present a harmonious, well-researched policy programme over the last year and he would have been unstoppable!"

That the CIP have not done this, is due to laziness in party fund-raisng, laziness in five-year work at constituency level, reliance on Geoffrey and Vincent to do all the homework for Parliamentary work, laziness by many MP's and failure to offer five years of alternative policy rather than personality knocking.

What they are left with appears to be a most disturbing sell-out to Australian financial interests in order to fund their campaign and a campaign which has appeared to highlight everyone's "worst case" scenario of government by Geoff and the CIP's.....
..threats, ad hominem attacks and the old, old Party image which Geoff himself had taken pains to dispel in 1983.

The 1983 CIP government was fair, talented, humane and a credit to the nation. It was a tragedy when it fell.

Hopes were high in the last year that we would see Geoffrey Henry quietly and efficiently putting it all together with a centre-left policy all worked out and a campaign financed by the proceeds of hard-working committee members in the constituencies.

Instead, all indications now appear to be a return to basic CIP demons- a country divided, families split, petty vengeance and privileged jobs for party faithful.

The vision is unfair in so far as it does not reflect the real Geoffrey Henry, Henry Puna, Dan Kamana, Tiki Matapo and a host of others.

But, down here in the wop-wops, mate, it is a real nightmarish reality.

Following Geoffrey's Atiu visit, we had a casual visit from MP Mariri Parataianga...on non-political matters.

Spotting it, a top CIP neighbour mama took time off next day to call out to the Newly-elf the Member,

"Had a nice visit from your papa, then?" and added, "Wait till your papa's out next year. He won't help you much!"

Old, old stuff. Fear-making. Friendship-splitting, family-wrecking.

The worst fears were brought home following Geoff's visit...whether he intended it or not!

Sure, it may have put some backbone into the CIP members, faults pointed out by Geoffrey Henry!

Tura was doing quite well on his own. So well that a concerned Tepou Boaza and a slightly worried Mariri returned to find out just how serious was Norman's problem.

They were able to return reporting crisis time was over.

Tura would lose, they calculated by between 45-50 votes...mainly

COMMENTARY

all the reported stuff about Norm and his iniquities and the alleged attack on ADC.

But, it also cost Tura most of the floating anti-Norm Demos, who don't need Norman George's because Geoffrey's visit had scared floating Demos stiff.

The Areorans had scuttled

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

SUPPORT ATIU

TURA KORONUI

STANDS

FOR

THE PEOPLE OF TE NGATANGI, NGATIARUA

AND

AREORA

AGAINST NORMAN GEORGE

Support the Campaign and Donate to:
TURA KORONUI P.O. BOX 882 RAROTONGA

IT'S GOT TO BE

TURA

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

quickly back into their respective Demo-CIP camps.

The Areora election, we believe, will now become a straight Demo-CIP fight and Norman will therefore win, regardless of policy...merely because of blind fear of the CIP's as represented not by Tura Koronui but by Central Office.

So, why did Geoff have to do it ? Why attack, when the election is there for the winning on simple decent PR and strong policy?

Simply, because he has nothing else to go on.

The rabble in the CIP have to be placated. They still accuse Geoff of not delivering the post-election goodies in 1983.

The stakes involved, now that Australian financial help has been taken, have escalated.

The whole campaign is hastily put together.

The candidates are low quality on the whole and would not be capable of analysing policy.

Geoffrey himself still appears scared stiff of leadership challenges...else why else would he take off for NZ to thwart a challenge by the forgotten no-hope Tupui Henry (of all people)..a campaign which even Hugh Henry told us was a "waste of Pui's time."

Hence, Atiu was left with a sad impression of the CIP's... vote them in and let's go screaming back to the horrors of the past!

The impression was heightened by an Atiuan CIP who offered the following enlightened vision of post-coalition life on Atiu under a CIP government.

"You better get ready to suffer because we're going to turn the tap off on Atiu! Atiu will have a long, cold five years under CIP."

He then proceeded to name some Permanent Secretaries who would be replaced and some Atiuans, including Norman George, who would be "gaoled".

Charming!

Guaranteed to give Norman the support he would never have got from neutrals if they had been left to think for themselves about the record of government his people have offered for the last 18 months.

Now, good kind Papa Norm has it nice and easy in the lead-up.

The wretched CIP campaign have made HIM the issue and the neutral voter despairs.

Atiuans are not terribly interested in Rarotonga's difficulties or otherwise with their member.

They are, however, very interested in the atrocious record of Norman's goverernment in the management of the social services, the loan agencies and the failure of successive ministers (bar Norman himself) to exercise management and control over their ministries.

They count however, above all that.. the peace of family and work on Atiu.

The CIP campaign hints at that being under threat.

Therefore Atiuans put all other considerations second to peace.

They do NOT want a return to the days, still fresh in their minds, when election night brought sheer fear and a knowledge that those on the losing side were going to suffer, bro' ...and how!

The issues surrounding Norman George and coalition are serious.

What the blazes is ADC ? What on earth is Jurgen Manske doing apparently tripping off at will as ad hoc manager of the Atiuan economy? Why all the secrecy about OUR affairs? Who on earth owns Ngamaru II ?

What is Norman up to organising Demo candidates of his

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

COMMENTARY

AML

AFTER WORK WEEK-ENDS TONIGHT

COME TO AUNTIE KURA

WELCOME

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

own whilst preaching the gospel of taokotaianga over here?

These questions are serious. They merit proper answers.

We are unlikely now to get them.

The opposition has re-created the old Demo-CIP line-up. And that is how Areora will vote..almost to a family.

It may be the right tactic for Raro, though. Who knows?

For as many old-style hard-core Party-Wayers it wins, there may be just as many who will be turned off in the direction of Terepai Maoate and the desperate duo up in Arorangi.

In a last ditch effort to divert the local campaign into an analysis of positive issues, the JOURNAL offers below a round-up of all the current dirt we have heard.

The negatives which are an insult to the voter's intelligence.

Let's have the lot, all at once...and bury them!

ANTI-CIP

*Geoff is a born knifer.

*His followers are old-style knifers, too.

*Geoff is in the pay of Richard Barton and will sell-out the Cook Islands to Mr. Barton's Australian interests.

*The CIP candidates are mostly no-hopers.

ANTI-COALITION

*Pupuke, Norman and Terepai are out to slit each others' throats.

*Norman nicked the CIDB money to buy his house.

*Norman used his ministerial influence to get loans for himself.

*Norman is privately linked with a female candidate

The JOURNAL believes that all the above are just election dirt. In printing them, we call on any political leader to use our humble pages to substantiate them.

*Geoffrey Henry is no more a "knifer" than your average politician, remembering that one man's "knifing" is another man's "justice".

*The same applies to all CIP members we know.

*Providing no Australian law is broken (as it is currently if Mr. Barton were a US citizen) the CIP's may legally seek any help they wish.

*Norman George did NOT break the law in buying his house. The JOURNAL disposed of the issue in depth a long time ago.

*Norman George, we believe, did use Ministerial influence at CIDB but we have no evidence to show illegality.

*Norman George's private affairs were the subject of a CIP attack in 1983 (with a different person). We regard them as irrelevant and have no evidence of their existence bar knowledge of whispers emanating apparently from a third political party.

SO.....

How about some positives, folks:

*What, if returned, do the Coalition propose to do about the social services mess ?

Under Coalition, the country will alter yet again out of all recognition, probably under incompetent management and with increased foreign domination of the micro-economy.

Is there any guarantee that the CIP's will do any better than offer the same with a more malevolent set of implementers?

TU

Tura Koronui stands in Atiu against Norman George.

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!

Donate to The Tura Koronui Campaign. P.O. BOX 882 RAROTONGA.

Back to the taro patch...
No mansion on the hill..
For Tura Koronui.
Does Government...
Get up your nose?

GET A FRESH SMELL IN GOVERNMENT!!

SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN!!

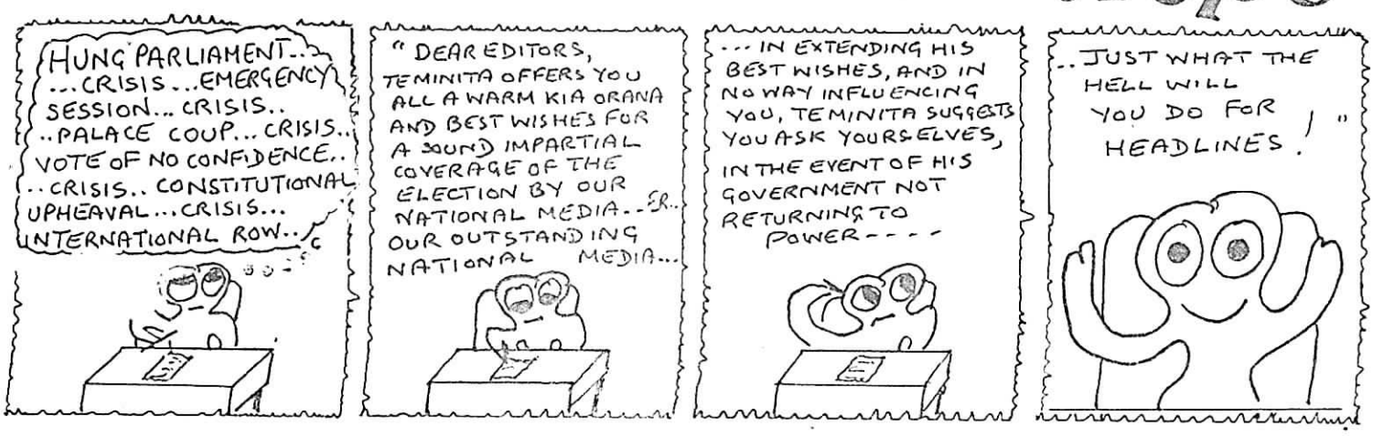
Donate to The Tura Koronui Campaign.

SUPPORT TURA KORONUI'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE ATIU SEAT!

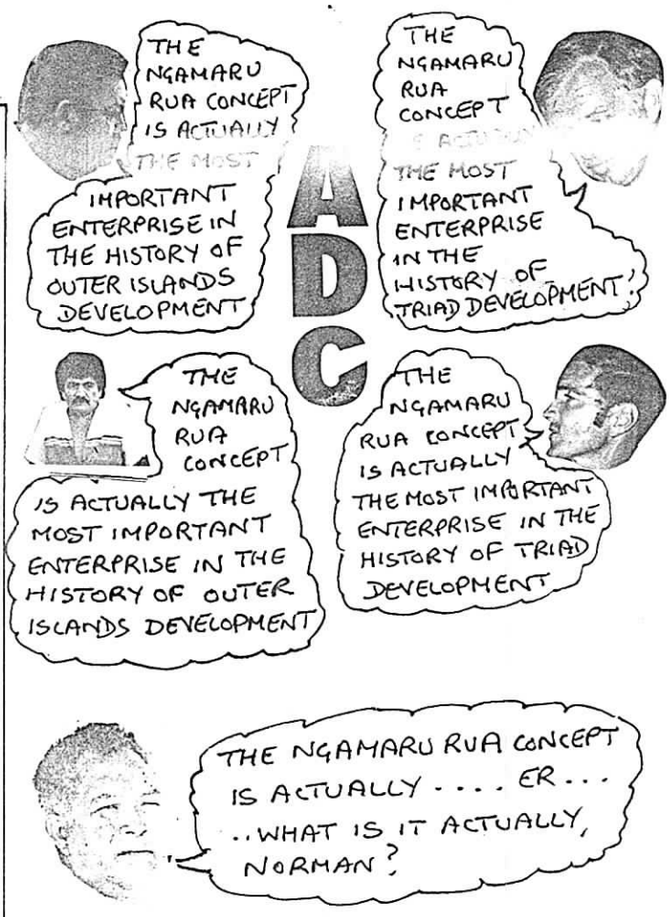
Donations...
P.O. BOX 882
RAROTONGA

RA

the quorums an everyday tale of political folk tropo


HUNG PARLIAMENT...
...CRISIS...EMERGENCY SESSION... CRISIS..
..PALACE COUP... CRISIS..
VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE..
..CRISIS.. CONSTITUTIONAL UPHEAVAL...CRISIS...
INTERNATIONAL ROW..
" DEAR EDITORS,
TEMINITA OFFERS YOU ALL A WARM KIA ORANA AND BEST WISHES FOR A SOUND IMPARTIAL COVERAGE OF THE ELECTION BY OUR NATIONAL MEDIA...ER.. OUR OUTSTANDING NATIONAL MEDIA...
... IN EXTENDING HIS BEST WISHES, AND IN NO WAY INFLUENCING YOU, TEMINITA SUGGESTS YOU ASK YOURSELVES,
IN THE EVENT OF HIS GOVERNMENT NOT RETURNING TO POWER----
..JUST WHAT THE HELL WILL YOU DO FOR HEADLINES!"

And so here's the (GOOD) news (FOLKS)


THE NGAMARU RUA CONCEPT IS ACTUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE IN THE HISTORY OF OUTER ISLANDS DEVELOPMENT
ADC
THE NGAMARU RUA CONCEPT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE IN THE HISTORY OF TRIAD DEVELOPMENT
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THE NGAMARU RUA CONCEPT IS ACTUALLY THE MOST IMPORTANT ENTERPRISE IN THE HISTORY OF TRIAD DEVELOPMENT
THE NGAMARU RUA CONCEPT IS ACTUALLY .... ER... ..WHAT IS IT ACTUALLY, NORMAN?

WILL THE REAL NORMAN GEORGE

PLEASE STAND UP?

For once the real Norman George is not just politely asked to stand up. In the affair involving the NGAMARU RUA, it seems to be his bounden duty to stand up and give facts. Plenty of them.

The inter-island freighter is due to arrive this week with Capn' Norm at the helm.

On shore, we are left to guess whether this is a genuine piece of people's development or a pretty low bit of pre-Xmas electioneering.

In this venture, more than in any other, the name of Atiu and the people of Atiu have been bandied about to support what may be an excellent infrastructural support for agriculture OR an expensive item of Norman George PR OR a brilliant piece of entrepreneurism by Triad's Chris Vaile...OR all three.

Once more, the secretive affairs of a company calling itself the ATIU Development Corporation are being called into question.

It was this very alleged "secretiveness" that aroused anti-George comments at recent CIP meetings.

"Taokotaianga" has long appeared to be far from evident in the affairs of a company in which the Atiuan shareholders, including committee members appear to be rubber stamps for whatever the manager and the MP's decide.

*Who owns the NGAMARU RUA ?

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

*What is the shareholding ?

*What are the terms of the contracts involved ?

*What feasibility studies were undertaken?

*What is the involvement of Messrs B. Paiti, M. Matepi and T. Henry ?

*Are allegations of interference with licensing and customs procedures substantive ?

*Does Atiu "own" the boat ?

*Has ADC paid the oft-toted figure of $100,000 to anyone ? Is there an ADC cheque for $100,600 anywhere ?

*What restrictions are now placed on other Atiu shipping?

etc etc.

We can find NO Atiuan shareholder who can answer any of the above.

Presumably, Mr. George can or Mr. Manske. But asking them would be tantamount to accepting that ADC is not an affair controlled or understood by the ordinary Atiuan.

Mr. Vaile of Triad Maritime 1982 kindly offered us a full account from his point of view. But that, again, is not the point.

Also, Mr. Malcolm of the Atiu Growers Assn, offered us a view. That, again, is not the point.

The point is that a venture in which the name of Atiu is used MUST involve full explanation and proper understanding by ALL Atiuans. All of us, that is, who (unlike Messrs George, Manske, Malcolm, Vaile and now Paratainga) have every single personal asset and future prospect residing on Atiu.

THIS, te au taeake maata, is OUR island. Not yours to play schemes with.

So, come clean.

Just what is the NGAMARU RUA project all about?

No rhetoric. No cheap "papa'a" cracks. No politics.

We know full well what's in it for Chris Vaile...as smart a piece of entrepreneurship as any in recent times.

We know full well that Roger Malcolm is going to knock it and that Jurgen Manske is going act in similar boringly predictable fashion, eh ?

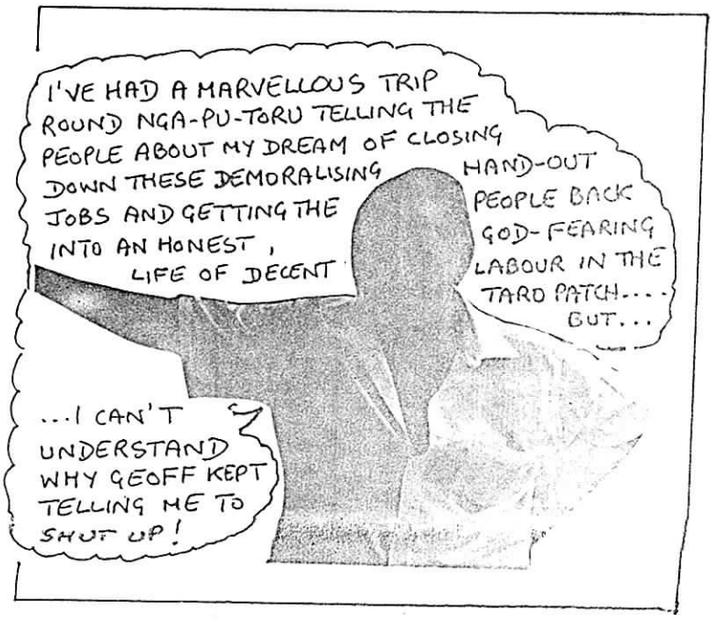
So, who's going to give a few simple, straight answers so that Atiuans can intelligently rally round what just might be a real good scheme to get the people directly involved (even if it's only a little) in the control of their shipping?

If it has to be Norman...ah well, so be it.

But, if it is, we hope that it will be the Norman George we know who has never flinched from an unpleasant question who stands up.

Not the curiously un-Norman like Atiuan figure whose lousy PR machine is becoming as wretched as the one of his late lamented leader, Tom.

In the JOURNAL's view, the Minister needs to ask himself just how good people's ventures such as ADC and the NGAMARU RUA have disintegrated to the extent of being PR minuses and targets of abuse at opposition meetings!


I'VE HAD A MARVELLOUS TRIP ROUND NGA-PU-TORU TELLING THE PEOPLE ABOUT MY DREAM OF CLOSING DOWN THESE DEMORALISING JOBS AND GETTING THE INTO AN HONEST, LIFE OF DECENT
HAND-OUT PEOPLE BACK GOD-FEARING LABOUR IN THE TARO PATCH.... BUT...
...I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY GEOFF KEPT TELLING ME TO SHUT UP!

THE ODD COUPLE

Once more the figures of Mr. Roger Malcolm and Mr. Jurgen Manske surface on the waves of Atiuan controversy.

Mr. Malcolm is an avid supporter of CIP candidate Tura Koronui and a critic of all things Georgian.

Mr. Manske is a less open, but no less active supporter of the big Norm re-election process.

The two former friends and colleagues are rumoured to have had the big split over the award of the CIA agency to Jurgen..way back when!

If that's what it's all about, then the Air NZ authorities have a lot to answer for in terms of the legacy of bitterness and unrest Atiu was bequeathed.

Both are being used now by politicians on both sides. They are highly intelligent men who will be well aware of this.

A pity! Both men are Cook Islanders. Their combined talents would do marvels for Atiu.

They are both generous, charming and prepared to put up with O.Is. life.

Sure, one can argue (as contented businessmen on Raro do) that structurally they have no option but to oppose each other.

But...for once, surely, they could both try to exercise their European heritage and assert the human agency which means they COULD make an effort to put Atiuan peace above their own interests.

Comment

CONFESSIONS OF A VOTER

All it needed was for Teariki Simiona to drop in!

There on the verandah were Papa Mariri, Papa Rena and Areora Labour candidate Tepou Uangakore.

'Twas a dream of what ought to be but never is in the Cook Islands because we're all too frightened!

"Look, Papa, you stand for everything we do. You're a working class man of the people. Why not run under Labour's banner?"

"Not me! Rena! I stand for no one except myself. It's up to the people to choose. I'm a CIP going for coalition with the Demos. The people are sick of "Party Way", "Demo Way"...but they like to still call themselves CIP's and Demos. We all want peace, though. Most of us. So does the rest of the country. That's why you'll find they vote the coalition members back."

It goes on for at least a couple of hours. Old [illegible] Rena Jonassen and Mariri Paratainga. Differing. Arguing. Never a rough word. Never an interruption. Point made. Point taken. Point rebutted.

An analysis of Geoffrey's tactics. A look at Norman's image. A frank seat-by-seat analysis of the nation.

A privilege to be there. And, above all, a privilege to take part in a non-violent political discussion.

These are genuine Cook Islands political leaders.

They know what they stand for.

In fact, there is more common ground than at first they will admit.

Teariki or Tura was needed, though.

The CIP became all too easily the common foe...until the lines of debate moved back..and back into the long [illegible] Albert!

Aue, e Papa Arapati. Yourghost still hovers over it all.

Once a source of all the division, Albert is now the unifying factor. All parties long for his posthumous blessing.

Then it gets dark. The mosquitoes put an end to high-powered discussion with an injection of low-powered irritation.

So off they go into the Atiuan night.

A real privilege.

It doesn't resolve much. But, by Ngamaru, it makes you think!

It makes you think what an injection of sense and sanity would occur across the nation if CIBNC had the gumption to put it all on air!

RISK IS EVERYWHERE THAT'S WHY YOU NEED

COALITION

ANOTHER WORD FOR FREEDOM OF CHOICE.

(Atiuans in support of Coalition Government)

A CHANCE FOR ALL TO SHARE IN DEVELOPMENT

KOKONUT WIRELESS

Predictions, polls polls and forecasts are always fun.. ..provided there is a reasonable guarantee of their accuracy.

LES NOUVELLES in Tahiti have the record in the field of SP polling. They got the last FP election right almost to a seat.

Using strategically placed contacts *from across the party* spectrum, this column predicted the downfall of the last Davis government over a year before its own members added up the same sums and tried to rectify matters by dumping their leader.

Using the same methods, the JOURNAL has twice in the last year evaluated the seat count nationally, on the latest occasion suggesting the narrowest of wins for the coalition.

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

We make no claim to super-infallibilty...just good contacts, a lot of background, plenty of history and, naturally, the total impartiality of being (hopefully) a good friend of Norm and Geoff and Pa and Ngere, a respecter of the integrity of Rena, an admirer of any CIser who can represent his people (or her people) and eternally personally grateful to Geoff and Norm and Ngere for some private matters!

It being the policy of the JCURNAL to try to clearly admit special interests, (at the risk of boring the reader with personal trivia), the above has to be stated.

RIGHT THEN....

First the hard news. Proper reporters like Greg and Jas and Alex and Arthur and Lawrence like hard news...the harder the better. That's why they have problems with CIBNC...who loathe hard news, especially if it pinpoints too accurately the spot on the planet where the last known Minister was sited!

Well, the hard news is that there is no hard news.

Tepou came over last week clutching the new paper from NZ listing all the candidates including a whole heap of dimly remembered relatives bringing home their carpet bags for the first time in five years.

Tepou then went fishing and dropped a plateload of ciguaterra on his family and took them round a copy of the new paper from NZ to the hospital.

Then he and the Demos-who-are-still-Demos-but-not-really and his former mates among the CIP's-who-are-still-CIP's-but-not-really got wind of Geoff Henry's visit to Atiu over the weekend.

So they rounded themselves up and had a quick meeting to find out what they all really were and to make sure they didn't listen to Geoff when he told them lies about what they really were.

Then Geoff did come over and told them what they really were. Those who knew nodded sagely, by all accounts, and those who didn't also nodded sagely but didn't know why.

We couldn't get to the meeting.

Our junior reporter refused because he values his scholarship which is up for renewal before January 19.

Also Norm is due in soon on the Ngamaru Rua, the biggest boat in the world, and he can get a bit violent when he's had a night on the high seas which takes longer than twice round the globe on more ministerial forms of transport.

So that's Atiu for this week.

Mariri's still a shoe-in since Patia rejected the cause of international socialist brotherhood for labour (and a good old-fashioned family vote from us with plenty jobs if he got in) and took a scholarship instead.

Big Norm's on the slide for the first time in Areora. Tura's got Ngatiarua cold and the unknown cousin of Tepou whom the Labour Party have sent over to be our representative (thank you, brothers) could pick up votes from those who in true Atiu fashion, can't stand the Georges or the Koronuis. He could also pick up a few floaters, floating back from the tumunu.

All of which is bad news for Big Norm. But not too bad. He'll still get in....just.

Meanwhile he's got the biggest boat in the world to offer and Tura's got six more weeks to persuade the floaters he can keep them floating in the manner to which they are accustomed.

As for the rest of the country out there beyond the poisoned reef, a brief round-up indicates the following:

*Four biggies could go!!!

Nihii is said to be about to move on in Penrhyn thus opening the door for Labour's first appearance in Nikao (Alfred Morris) and depriving the people of Brisbane of representation in the Cook Islands Parliament.

Veta, too, appears booked for a one-way flight to Enn Zedd, especially if fellow Demo Nga decides that he and Veta really must commit mutual harikiri among their supporters.

And, so they all say, it's due to be opening time at the Wagon Wheels again for Bill as ex-Demo Mataio moves the Takitumu Demo enclave into the CIP fold.

Now, the bad news for the Demo Tumus is that Vince will be struggling, it seems, in Nikao where Ngari's supposed to be all for Big Norm's man Johnnie the honest chookbroker.

Don't count them before they're hatched, though, since Vince can still knock spots off all the Demos when it comes to campaigning...and, if he topples, Nikao's more likely to be heading for a CIP member...which could make them think thrice!

Meanwhile in Ivirua, it's "e pe! o Pa!" as, in the biggest upset of them all, "life-member" Pa Pokino is heading for a long "goodnight Nikao" as Tiriamate Ngatokorua (son of the Karanga Island Council member), long-time Demo, stands on an independent "break-the-Pokino-dynasty" platform backed by the whole of the top Karanga families and, so they say, the CIP's in Ivirua.

Unless there's a miracle, it's farewell Pa and, with the problems in Nikao and Fred not standing and Harry on the minority side in Ruaau, it could also be "in memoriam" for the Demo Tumus.

Arorangi's a mess and not worth discussing by any self-opiniated commentator. Both seats (with two party leaders and a swag of committees who aren't sure who they represent) come into the Golden Kiwi category.

Titikaveka, too, is a solid marginal. All those holy rollers are up

SEE THE NEXT PAGE

FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE..

there. And God knows which way they'll vote!

If the Deputy PM can't hold Ngatangiia then we can all pack up and settle for Geoff ruling us for the rest of the century..with Richard Barton presumably as Secretary to Treasury!

Dan back in Tupapa, Geoff a shoe-in in Takuvaine and Rae Jack sneaking his marginal in Avatiu.

That's the chat on the rest of Raro.

Good to see a woman in it, though, is most people's reaction even though it's all uphill for Helen.

Sad to hear of Golden Oldie Fred feeling the grey hairs and introducing ghastly realities like professional careers and superannuation into the knockabout comedy of politics.

"Loose" says the people of Tautu like their tar sealed paths, even though engineers reckon they'll need a lawn mower to repair them...but it adds up to a close win to Bill, with Ngere hanging on and Kura safe in Aitutaki.

Tamarua to re-elect Piri about 13 to 6 and Matepi's political skills to just outgun his foes in Oneroa is the Mangaia word.

Up North in Rakahanga the Pupuke Robati Party will return its candidate unopposed.

Manihiki's marginal depends on how many pearl zillionaires have disappeared since the last tere party.

Pukapuka to Inatio and Mauke to Vaine without a dissenting opinion ...and Mitiaro to Nga with a lot of dissenting opinions.

FORM SIX MOVES ON

Happy Form Sixer, Mary Kautai.

Atiu MP, Mariri Parataingo goes to Rarotonga this week briefed by Atiu College Parents' Committee on their desire to continue the educational development programme on the island up to pre-University Form Seven level.

Following an exceptionally successful first introduction to Form Six in 1988, a delegation of students led by 1988 College Dux, Helen Mokoroa approached school authorities with a request to continue their pre-University studies on Atiu up to Form Seven.

"We feel we can succeed more on our own island," she reported.

The submission received unanimous backing from parents and support from MP Parataingo speaking at last week's annual College prize day.

Mr. Parataingo was due to have discussions on the subject with Education Department officials this week.

Marginals Leaning to Coalition:

1 X Manihiki
1 X Titikaveka

Overall, there's a lot of support for a Geoffrey, Norm and Vincent coalition!

(Seriously! Hardest workers, best personalities, best politicians etc.) But then you ask who's to lead it...and the idea dies on the spot!

At this point in time, as the great Tricky Dicky used to say when avoiding an issue, an election tomorrow would render:

Safe Coalition:

2 X Atiu
2 X Mangaia
1 X Mitiaro
1 X Aitutaki
1 X Ngatangiia
1 X Rakahanga

8

Safe CIP:

1 X Mauke
2 X Aitutaki
1 X Pukapuka
1 X Overseas
1 X Tupapa
1 X Takuvaine
1 X Matavera

8

Safe Labour:

1 X Penrhyn

Safe Independent:

1 X Ivirua

Marginals Leaning To CIP

1 X Ruaau
1 X Murienua
1 X Avatiu
1 X Nikao

GRAND TOTAL

CIP.....12
Coalition...10
Labour.....1
Independent...1

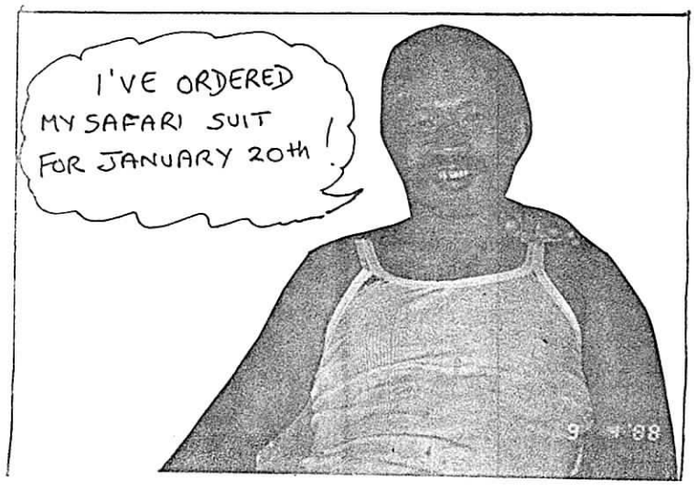
Hence, a weakish CIP coalition and a short term before a new election.

Geoff's landslide isn't there yet, folks and both sides have an awful lot of work still to do.

NEXT WEEK

All the imponderables.

So much for the gossip...no confidences broken.



NEWS – international

TAHITI LESSON

Always a couple of steps ahead of us in political awareness, Tahiti's politics in recent weeks have offered an interesting lesson in the pitfalls of coalition.

As political commentators have noted, especially in the Pacific (where coalition is fast becoming the rule. rather than the exception) the tendency of coalitions is to set in motion a process of greater and greater fragmentation.

A lot depends upon the basis of the original formation of the coalition.

In Tahiti's case, the basis was weak.

The coalition formed in late 1987 under Alexandre Leotieff was at heart an anti-Gaston Flosse alliance.

Ideologically, it linked the left with the moderates and the right of centre. Socialists joined with monetarist business-oriented MP's to oust the "demon" Flosse.

From the start, an individually very talented government broke into highly visible "groupings", led by Leontieff, by socialist Jacqui Drollet and by centrists under Quito Braun-Ortega.

They held a majority of seats in the 46 seat assembly and, as President, leader of the right of centre Te Tiarama group, Leontieff was able to select a majority of Ministers (who under the French system give up their parliamentary seats to the next on the last electoral list).

Slowly, and with great political skill, Flosse fought back.

The method was to wedge cracks in the governing alliance.

By late October, and with the budget due, he had managed to engineer a split between Leontieff and the centrist group led by Quito Braun Ortega.

Leontieff's only means of maintaining his majority was to ask three of his ministers to resign and return to Parliament, removing three minority members.

Included in the three was Vice President Georges Kelly and well-known sports minister, Napoleon Spitz.

It is a model for us in so far as it highlights the very difficult processes which are set in motion by a governing coalition.

Coalitions, even the most talented of them (as Tahiti's certainly is...and was) are by nature unstable.

All the more reason, it seems to the JOURNAL, for the groups composing the Demo-CIP pre-election coalition to inform the voter exactly what the terms are under which they unite.

Indeed, coalition is tricky...as the Tahitians are finding out!

LABOUR

A ELECTION ISSUE

LOOK AROUND

Your housing, your roads, your plantation, your hospital, your wages, your transport.

The shop prices. The loan system.

The future.

Will anything really change in the next five years ?

What you see is life for Cook Islanders after 23 years of Maori self-government under CIP's, Demos and Coalitionists.

Are you satisfied ? Is this what you are worth ? The rest of the world seems to think running water and full power and decent health and fair wages and human rights and all that are basic ? Not a present from government MP's.

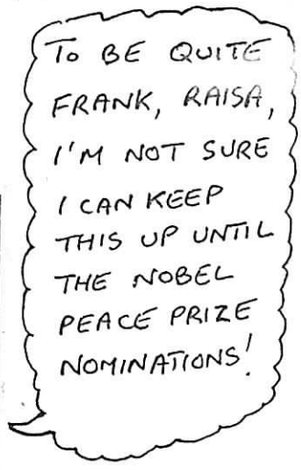
Perhaps you don't. Perhaps you think it is all charity from government. Maybe you believe you are getting what you deserve.

The Labour Party doesn't. But your right to decide for yourselves will never be challenged by us. So, if you think you're getting what you're worth, vote Coalition or Demo or CIP or whatever. All we ask is that you seriously look around and ask:

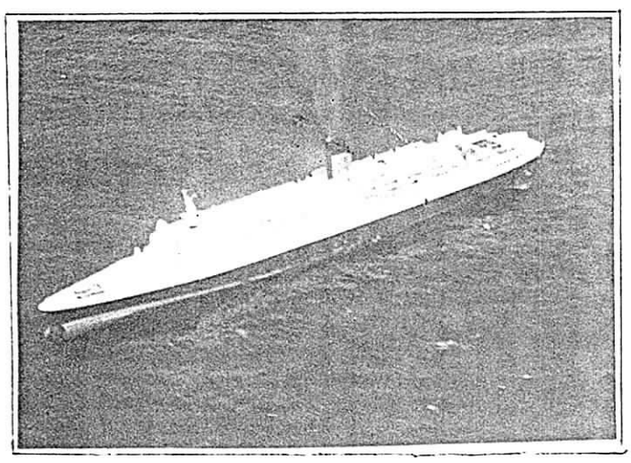
MAORI SELF GOVERNMENT ~ IS THIS IT ?!

If it is...O.K. You don't need LABOUR!

HALF MARX

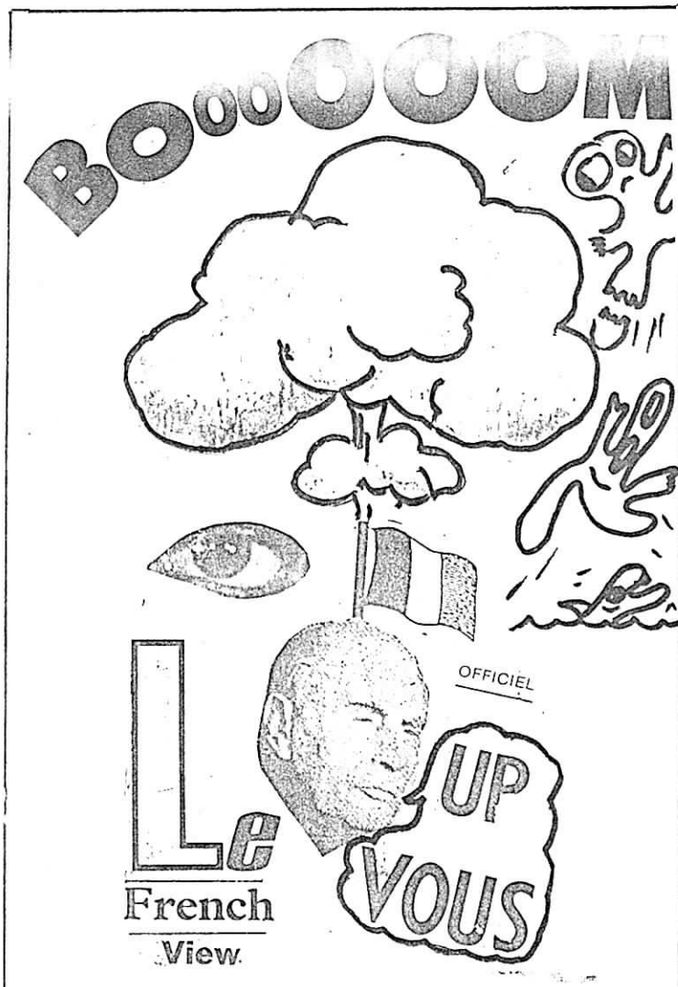


BIG DEAL



OVERHEARD

A: Hey Ministerio!
B: Yes, Luigi ?
A: Word is out that youse into boats...big boats.
B: That's right, Luigi, but I'm afraid you're a bit late. Everything's all signed and sealed.
A: Yeah, yeah. I heard about the yam contracts and the banana deal. Nice. But that don't take care of your tere parties, eh.
B: True...
A: Well, I got this option on this really BIG boat..just right for your girls brigade trip to St. Tropez. All you gotta do is underwrite the odd two thousand berths we can't fill at say 5% on top and she's all yours. Plus a night out in Palermo for all the patrol leaders thrown in. We got a deal, Ministerio ?
B: Does Tura know about this?
A: Now, Ministerio baby! Do I look like the kinda guy that'd play one mob off against the other?
B: Yes, Luigi. But, O.K. you got yourself a deal. Except for one thing.
A: Shoot, Ministerio.
B: The boat's only got one funnel. My people expect the best. Fix up another funnel and we're in business!



Allô! Un très merry christmas to tous mes loyal fans et all that. Je am sure vous was tres over le moon to hear mon bon announcement of un grand concession to les nutters in le Greenpeace et all les other anti-nucleaire crazies. From maintenant on, nous sommes abandonning les barren wastes of le stuffed-up Mururoa. This est by now un of les most stuffed-up atolls dans le whole world and est most unsuitable pour les tests of les really big uns nous have got lined up pour le Happy New Year. Mururoa, dans fact, est un absolument load of useless old rubble avec beaucoup de holes dans it which makes it très leaky. Dans fact as well, je am pretty sure il est très dangerous et je would serieusement advise vous against swimming around le old lagon pour about les next couple de zillion years. Also, les fish sont les most disgusting looking je have ever seen. Not that je have ever tried un. Je am not stupide. Je tried to get le ghastly Sheer Crap to have un bon fish from le old lagon before le last election. Mais il said il was put off by le phosphorescent glow and il was not partial anyway to les fish avec trois heads, especially when they ticked. Pas pleasing everyone, je suppose. Anyway je have arranged to have un grand boatload shipped over to mon grand ami le General Normal de Gorge sur son gigantique new bateau. Je understands il wants to offer les ghastly CIP's un special post-election umukai if ils gets dans.

Tout le best,

le Grand Frog.

RUMOURS

ME, NORMAN? WHY, I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE!
WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS? TRY THE LIONS OLD BOY!
NO I DON'T GO MUCH ON SURGEON GENERALS' WARNINGS! IN FACT I'VE NEVER SEEN MUCH POINT IN SURGEONS ANYWHERE!
O.K. NORM? I STAND DOWN. YOU GET THE CAR, THE FREE PASS TO THE VATICAN, THE CRAZY HORSE LIFE MEMBERSHIP MAGGIE'S AUTOGRAPH AND TEPOU... I GET THE HOUSE AND THE SAFARI SUITS....
LOOK! NO GREASE!
CERTAINLY NOT! IT WOULD TAKE A LOT MORE THAN THE MITIARO YAMAHA FRANCHISE TO GET MY VOTE, MINISTER!
UNDER AUSTRALIAN CONTROL? THE PARTY?
STRINGS ATTACHED?
HOW DROLL!
YES, OF COURSE, SPORT.... BEHIND THE TUPAPA BILLABONG? MIDNIGHT? RIGHT ON! BRING YOUR OWN DIDGEREEDOO!

RUMOURS

16

THE LAST WORD

TRUTH

And who knows what on earth THAT is. But to end this election-negatives special-super-bumper edition on a more positive note, here's as near to the truth as we can get about a couple of the main characters in the Areora screenplay.

* He e's Roger Malcolm (by Roger Malcolm).

"I'm not working for the CIP. I'm working for Tura Koronui because I believe he's the best candidate for Areora. I don't support the policies of Norman George. I especially don't like the way he appears to use his government power to hammer small business enterprise by those he judges anti-him. I have certain principles I believe in and if the CIP's don't keep to them, I will be just as opposed to them. One of my most important political stances is that I think we should have a 3-year term. This would let the people exercise more control over the abuses of power we have witnessed.

*And then, here's Norman (by a supporter)

"He's not perfect but he's damned hard working; he's tough; he gets things done; he's not afraid of opposition; he's loyal to his constituents; and he'll support any Atiuan's case right to the limit. AND he has a record of succeeding. He'll be a Minister if the government get back. His opponent will be a backbench nobody if his side gets in. So...I have an easy choice, in my view".

ON TE GOOD SHIP NGAMARU II

sea shanty

come gather round and hear me tale
a yarn that's told wher'er men sail
how the wrath of god it blew
the night we lost the ngamaru

So....heave ho me hearties
grip your felt-tips tight
Yo ho me shipmates
mark thy ballots right

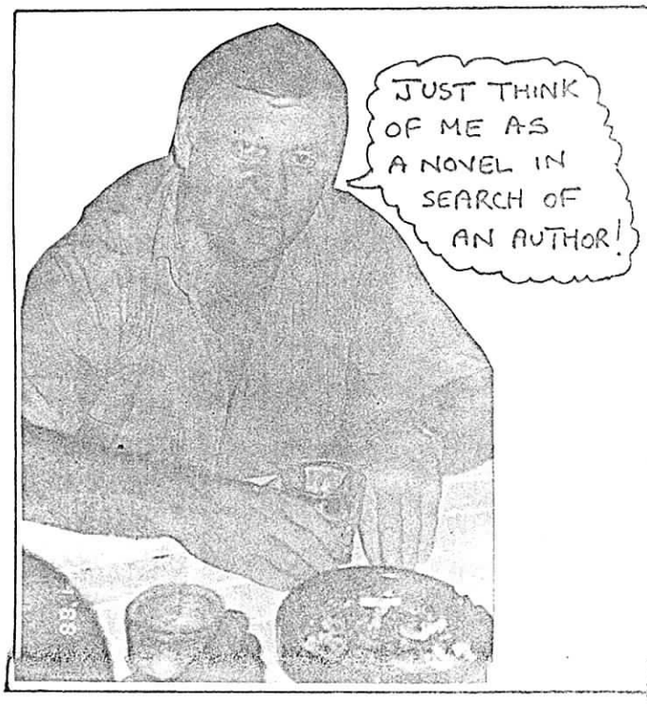
'twas on a night in '88
so the elder elders state
cap'n norm was at the wheel
with CIP's lashed to the keel
a thousand voters in the hold
and a tonne of takuvaine gold
captured so the legend goes
from under governor geoffrey's nose

Yes...heave ho me hearties
five more years at sea
Yo ho me shipmates
the rigging's up to me

the ocean raged the winds did howl
and cap'n norm did start to growl
me bonny warrior lads fear not
it's just another honky plot
but first the crew did curse the lord
and then the rats leaped overboard
and cap'n norm was heard to wail
alas alack 'tis all a-vaile

So....heave ho me hearties
man the open boat
Yo ho me shipmates
five long years afloat

VERA



Don't YOU get sunk!
VOTE CIP....
...and plunder YOUR share of the nation's loot!

(You have just been reading an advertisement on behalf of the Mapumai Marxist League)

THE LAST WORD OF ALL

A bit childish, *Anarchy?*

Atiu was recently asked to send a delegate to a Raro tourist seminar. Mr. Jurgen Manske was sent NOT Mr. Roger Malcolm, the only Atiuan businessman directly involved in tourism!

KIA ORANA